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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9091  
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASUNCION 2806

E.O. 12356: NA  
TAGS: SHUM, PA  
SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON  
PARAGUAY

REF: STATE 141061

1. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD INFORM THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS, WHO ISSUED THE STATEMENT CONCERNING THE ABORTED VISIT TO PARAGUAY BY THE AMERICAS WATCH GROUP (REFTEL), OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT CASE. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE -- REPRESENTATIVE TONY HALL AND SENATORS DURENBERGER, X MOYNIHAN AND HATFIELD.

2. BEGIN TEXT: I READ WITH INTEREST THE STATEMENT YOU ISSUED AS A MEMBER OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS CONCERNING THE RECENT ATTEMPT BY MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAS WATCH, THE LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE NEW YORK BAR ASSOCIATION TO VISIT PARAGUAY. I PERSONALLY, TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS OF MY STAFF, WAS VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE GROUP. WE MADE CLEAR TO THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER THIS INCIDENT, PARTICULARLY THE REFUSAL OF THE PARAGUAYAN AUTHORITIES TO PERMIT THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP TO CONTACT THIS EMBASSY. I SHARE YOUR BELIEF THAT A VISIT TO PARAGUAY BY THIS GROUP WOULD BE BENEFICIAL AND URGED THE GOVERNMENT OF PARAGUAY TO AGREE TO PERMIT THEM TO RETURN. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN INFORMED BY THE THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT WOULD WELCOME SUCH A VISIT, AND THAT APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD MEET WITH THE GROUP. IN ADDITION, THE GROUP WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WANT TO TALK TO VARIOUS PRIVATE FIGURES CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE WORKINGS OF THE JUDICIARY SYSTEM. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS TOO WILL BE POSSIBLE. LET ME ADD THAT WE REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH DRS. FILARTIGA AND SAGUIER. WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF ANY THREATS TO THEIR SAFETY OR REPRISALS ARISING FROM THE ATTEMPTED VISIT BY THE AMERICAS WATCH GROUP. END TEXT.

DAVIS

END OF MESSAGE

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